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SCIENTISTS AND PHYSICIANS CRITICIZE EMBRYONIC STEM CELL STATEMENTS OF JOHN KERRY

Letter Signed by 57 Experts Delivered to Campaign Today

Washington, DC - An ad hoc group of 57 noted research scientists and physicians had a letter delivered to presidential candidate Senator John Kerry today taking him to task for misleading statements he has made regarding embryonic stem cell research.

The letter which was delivered to Senator Kerry's Washington DC campaign headquarters says, "You have equated support for this research with respect for "science," and said that science must be freed from ideology to produce miracle cures for numerous diseases. As professionals trained in the life sciences, we are alarmed at these statements."

The letter says Senator Kerry's statements "misrepresent science." The signers insist that embryonic stem cell research has not cured a single patient or any diseases. "The statements you have made regarding the purported medical applications of embryonic stem cells reach far beyond any credible evidence..."

The signers are distinguished research scientists and physicians and include those from the Mayo Clinic, Georgetown Medical School, Harvard Medical School, and the National Cancer Institute.

The signers initiated the letter in the wake of ongoing statements on embryonic stem cell research made by Senator Kerry and his running mate Senator John Edwards. Two weeks ago Senator Edwards said that under a Kerry administration those like Christopher Reeve will "get up out of their wheelchairs and walk."

Dr. Micheline Mathews-Roth, a researcher from the Harvard Medical School said "There is too much hype about embryonic stem cells and at this point there is no data that cures are imminent. At this time we just don't know and it is inaccurate to get people's hopes up."

The letter goes on to emphasize that research and treatment using non-controversial adult stem cells have treated and cured thousands of patients and dozens of diseases and maladies.

For more information or to schedule an interview with a scientist, please call Diana Banister at (703)739-5920 or e-mail dbanister@sbpublicaffairs.com.

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